

# *Massachusetts Wetlands Restoration Program*

## *Fiscal Year 2007 Priority Projects Summary*

RFR Issued: October, 2007

RFR Number: ENV 07 CZM 03

Nominations: 11

Projects Accepted: 9

On May 15th, WRP closed its FY 2007 RFR for Priority Project Nominations. Through this RFR, WRP reviewed a total of 11 nominations and accepted 9 new Priority Projects. Sites that are accepted as Priority Projects are eligible to receive grants and technical services funded by WRP, such as wetland delineation, field survey, mapping and site planning, hydraulic analyses, impact assessments, permitting, and monitoring. With these newly-designated projects, WRP is now supporting a total of 42 active Priority Projects in various stages of development that have the potential to restore over 3,000 acres of degraded wetlands.

### **Fiscal Year 2007 Accepted Priority Project Summaries:**

#### **Eel River Headwaters, Plymouth**

##### **Sponsor: Town of Plymouth**

The Town of Plymouth has proposed to restore over one mile of the Eel River as it flows through 35 acres of historic cranberry bogs that were recently purchased by the town and voluntarily taken out of cranberry production with assistance from the NRCS Wetlands Reserve Program and the Town's Community Preservation Committee. Restoration efforts will target removal of water-control structures and fill to restore riverine habitat and fish passage, Atlantic white cedar bogs, red maple swamps, and acidic shrub fens. Project partners include the Massachusetts Riverways Program, Mass Bays Program, Eel River Watershed Association, USDA-NRCS, Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts, The Nature Conservancy, and USFWS.

#### **Stony Brook, Brewster**

##### **Sponsor: Brewster Natural Resource and Conservation Department**

The Stony Brook Restoration Project is identified as sites BR-5 and BR-6 in the Cape Cod Atlas of Tidally Restricted Wetlands. The Town of Brewster, in partnership with USDA-NRCS, Association to Preserve Cape Cod, Mass Highway, Mass Bays Program, Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, and NOAA Restoration Center will investigate the feasibility of replacing the degraded culverts beneath Route 6A in order to restore the fish run and approximately 13 acres of tidally restricted salt marsh associated with Stony Brook.

**Mill River, Gloucester****Sponsor: Eight Towns & The Bay Committee**

The City of Gloucester, in partnership with NOAA Restoration Center, Conservation Law Foundation, Eight Towns & the Bay, and Mass Audubon is pursuing the restoration of tidal flow to approximately 35 acres of degraded marsh upstream of the Mill River tide gate at Washington Street in Gloucester. Partners are currently planning to increase tidal exchange and flood protection through structural modifications and enhanced management of the existing water control structure.

**Town Creek, Salisbury****Sponsor: Town of Salisbury**

The Town Creek Restoration Project encompasses over 350 acres of historically degraded tidal wetlands currently impaired by restricted tidal exchange caused by an undersized culvert and a failing MBTA railroad right-of-way. Past storm events, including this year's Patriots Day Storm, have seriously compromised the ability of the railroad right-of-way to convey proper tidal flows and provide appropriate flood-control to upstream properties and businesses. The Town of Salisbury along with partners including Eight Towns & the Bay, USEPA, North East Mosquito Control, NOAA Restoration Center, Mass Audubon, Mass Highway, and the Army Corps of Engineers are investigating how tidal exchange beneath several infrastructure crossings can be managed to promote greater ecological function and provide improved flood control.

**Dun Fudgin', Gloucester****Sponsor: City of Gloucester**

Sponsored by the City of Gloucester, this project was completed in April and restored approximately one acre of former salt marsh by removing fill material from a site adjacent to the Blynman Canal and the Gloucester High School. Partners including the NOAA Restoration Center, The Corporate Wetlands Restoration Program, Gloucester High School, and Eight Towns & the Bay celebrated the completion of restoration work in May 2007.

**Broad Cove, Hingham****Sponsor: Derby Academy**

The Broad Cove Restoration Project is a tidal wetland complex located in the Town of Hingham that is impacted by three tidal restrictions identified in the *Atlas of Tidal Restrictions on the South Shore of Massachusetts*. The Derby Academy in Hingham has sponsored this project and will work with CZM-WRP to develop a project team and advance feasibility studies to investigate issues such as the baseline health of the Broad Cove ecosystem, remedies to non-point source pollution, and the potential to reconfigure culverts and other tidal restrictions. The site is currently being monitored through a partnership between the Cohasset Center for Student Coastal Research and CZM-WRP.

**Belle Isle Marsh, Boston****Sponsor: Boston Conservation Commission**

In partnership with the City of Boston's Conservation Commission, CZM-WRP will help partners evaluate restoration alternatives for a portion of Belle Isle Marsh located within

the Rumney Marshes Area of Critical Environmental Concern. Primary concerns include investigation of existing culverts to determine if they restrict tidal flow and identification of methods to improve hydrology and achieve restoration of salt marsh. Additional partners interested in this project include the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, Friends of Belle Isle Marsh, and the NOAA Restoration Center.

### **Jacobs Meadow, Cohasset**

#### **Sponsor: Cohasset Conservation Commission**

Sponsored by the Cohasset Conservation Commission, in conjunction with the Cohasset Harbor Health Committee, the Town of Cohasset is investigating the potential to restore Jacobs Meadow Marsh, 10-acre site located in downtown Cohasset. Currently, the Town is working with partners including NOAA Restoration Center, Army Corps of Engineers, and EPA to evaluate the performance of a self-regulating tide gate between the marsh and James Brook. The Cohasset Center for Student Coastal Research is also providing baseline restoration monitoring of the salt marsh.

### **Parker Avenue 'Cut', Cohasset**

#### **Sponsor: Cohasset Conservation Commission**

Known as the Parker Avenue 'Cut', this relatively small wetland of approximately 1.7 acres and its associated channel may provide an important tidal connection to the much larger Gulf River Estuary in Cohasset. The culvert that formerly facilitated tidal flushing through the site is collapsed, and the wetland is degraded by stagnant conditions and high bacteria counts. The Town has approved local funding for this project and is working to initiate a feasibility study in partnership with WRP and several other groups, including the Conservation Law Foundation, NOAA Restoration Center, and The Cohasset Center for Student Coastal Research.